

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8004

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 5952

EXDIS

FOR HARTMAN FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, YO, US

SUBJECT: DEALINGS WITH THE YUGOSLAVS

REF: STATE 220477

1. I APPRECIATE YOUR REVIEW OF ISSUES AND EVENTS
OUTLINED REFTEL. THIS CABLE GIVES A STATUS REPORT
ON WHERE THINGS STAND ON OFFICIAL AND SOCIAL
CONTACTS AND EVENTS.

2. ONLY IN THE PAST WEEK HAS BELGRADE EMERGED FROM
THE SUMMER HOLIDAY SEASON. WE CANNOT BE SURE OF
THE TREATMENT THEY ARE GIVING US. NEVERTHELESS,
BASED ON A REVIEW WITH THE STAFF, THE BASIC PICTURE
OVER THE PAST THREE WEEKS HAS BEEN THAT WORKING LEVEL
CONTACTS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED AND GRANTED BY THE
YUGOSLAVS. AT THE ONLY RECENT SOCIAL EVENT GIVEN
BY A SENIOR EMBASSY OFFICER (IN HONOR OF A NEWLY-ARRIVED
MEMBER OF THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY) ONE YUGOSLAV
JOURNALIST ACCEPTED THE INVITATION BUT A SENIOR
FONOFF OFFICIAL WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INCOMING
DIPLOMAT'S COUNTRY DECLINED. WE HAVE NO WAY
OF KNOWING WHETHER HIS REGRET WAS INTENTIONAL
OR GENUINE. HOWEVER, MY RECEPTION IN DUBROVNIK
DURING THE SUMMER MUSIC AND ARTS FESTIVAL THERE WAS
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BOYCOTTED BY ALL LOCAL OFFICIALS AND FESTIVAL ORGANIZERS

(ALTHOUGH FESTIVAL DIRECTOR HIMSELF COLLABORATED WITH
PAO IN COMPOSITION OF GUEST LIST).

3. XD HAVE OVER THE PAST TWO WEEKS REQUESTED SUBSTANTIVE
APPOINTMENTS ON VARIOUS MATTERS WITH GLIGOROV
(TO DISCUSS THE STATUS OF THE LAW ON SHSSOCIATED LABOR);
WITH GRICKOV (TO DISCUSS ECPC); XAND WITH KOMATINA
(TO DISCUSS COLOMBO AND UNGA MATTERS). AT THE
BEGINNING OF THIS WEEK THERE HAD BEEN NO WORD ON
GLIGOROV AND KOMATINA, AND PROTOCOL ADVISED US
GRICKOV "WAS NOT AVAILABLE" ALTHOUGH IT WAS REPORTED
IN THE PRESS THAT HE MET LAST FRIDAY WITH THE SOVIET
AMBASSADOR. BUT, ELCTING PROTOCOL CHIEF RANKO VILUS
THEN CAME TO ME AT THE BRAZILIAN NATIONAL DAY
RECEPTION ON TUESDAY, SEPT. 7, AND MADE UNSOLICITED
REMARK THAT THERE WAS NO FREEZE-OUT, THAT ON THE
CONTRARY THE INSTRUCTIONS HERE ARE THAT I AM TO BE GIVEN
EVERY COURTESY. I REVIEWED WITH HIM DIFFICULTY
I HAD BEEN HAVING IN GETTING APPOINTMENTS AND HE
TOLD ME HE WOULD

PERSONALLY LOOK INTO THE MATTER
OF GRICKOV, THAT KOMATINA WAS ILL. (THIS WAS TRUE.
I FOUND OUT THAT OTHER AMBASSADORS HAD BEEN INFORMED
TO THIS END BUT WE HAD NOT BEEN SO INFORMED). HE
TOLD ME THAT HE KNEW OF THE REQUEST TO SEE GLIGOROV
BUT THEY HAD FELT THAT GLIGOROV WAS NOT THE BEST PERSON
TO MEET MY REQUEST. I GAVE HIM A QUIZZICAL LOOK AND
A "OH, COME ON" TYPE OF RESPONSE, SAYING THAT GLIGOROV
IS THE BEST PERSON IN YUGOSLAVIA ON ANY PENDING
LEGISLATION. HE SMILED AND SAID THIS WAS TRUE AND HE
PERSONALLY WOULD HANDLE THE GLIGOROV APPOINTMENT.
YESTERDAY THE KOMATINA APPOINTMENT WAS SET UP AND I
MET WITH HIM TODAY (REPORTING SEPTTEL). HE STATED
THAT I WAS FREE TO MEET WITH HIM AT ANY TIME, THAT HE IS
"AN OFFICIAL, NOT A POLITICIAN." WHEN ASKED WHETHER
HE WAS IMPLYING I WOULD ENCOUNTER DIFFICULTY IN
OBTAINING APPOINTMENTS WITH "POLITICIANS," HE SAID
"I DON'T KNOW."

4. ZAGREB FAIR: IN SAME CONVERSATION WITH VILUS
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HE TOLD ME THAT TITO WAS NOT GOING TO BE OPENING
THE FAIR BECAUSE HE WOULD BE BUSY WITH THE CEAUSESCU
VISIT. HE THEN SAID TITO WOULD NOT LIKELY GO TO
THE FAIR AT ALL. HOWEVER, FAIR OFFICIALS HAVE GIVEN
CONTRARY INFORMATION TO HERB KAISER, SAYING THAT
TITO WILL BE AT THE FAIR ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13,
AND IF HE DECIDES TO VISIT THE US PAVILION, WE
WILL HAVE ABOUT ONE HOUR'S ADVANCE NOTICE. (THIS

IS THE SAME STANDARD SECURITY-TYPE INFORMATION THAT OUR PAVILION PEOPLE AND HERB GET EACH YEAR.) I HAVE DELAYED MY DEPARTURE FOR ZAGREB IN ORDER TO BE PRESENT IN BELGRADE AT THE RECPTION FOR CHIEFS OF MISSION WITH CEAUSESCU HELD AT NOON TODAY; AND HAVE THEREFORE MISSED THE OPENING CEREMONIES. I AM LEAVING THIS EVENING FOR ZAGREB WHERE HERB KAISER HAS SCHEDULED A DINNER TONIGHT. I WILL BE PRESENT WITH SENIOR EMBASSY STAFF TO HOST AMERICAN DAY RECEPTION TOMORROW. I PLAN TO TEST THE WIND AT THAT TIME. IT IS LIKELY THAT I WILL REMAIN WITH MY FAMILY SOMEWHERE IN CROATIA ON SUNDAY AND BE IN CONTACT WITH THE CONGEN AND BE READY TO RETURN ON MONDAY, UNLESS IS IS MADE ABSOLUTELY CLEAR THAT TITO WILL NOT BE AT THE FAIR; I WILL BE AT OUR PAVILION. I AGREE WITH YOU THAT IT IS THE YGUOSLAVS WHO WILL BE PAYING THE PRICE IN TERMS OF THEIR ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH US IF TITO ATTENDS FAIR BUT SNUBS OUR EXHIBIT.

5. EXCON MEETING: WE HAVE SENT BY SEPTTEL INFORMATION THAT AS LATE AS YESTERDAY THE YUGOSLAVS WERE NOT ABLE TO TELL US WHO WOULD HEAD THEIR DELEGATION AND STILL LEAVING US IN A POSITION WHERE THEY COULD PUT UP A NON-POLICY LEVEL LEADER. WE HAVE RECOMMENDED THAT WE POSPONE THE MEETINGS OF NEXT WEEK UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THEY CAN ASSURE US OF THE LEADERSHIP OF THEIR SIDE. IT IS QUITE CLEAR TO ME THAT THEY ARE PUSHING US ON THIS ONE AND AGAIN IT IS AN ISSUE IN WHICH IT IS THEIR INTEREST THAT IS PRIMARILY AT STAKE.

6. CNO VISIT: I HAVE ALREADY COMMUNICATED ON THIS ONE.

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7. COOPER VISIT. I DON'T HAVE ANY PROBLEM WITH COOPER COMING BUT PROBABLY WILL NOT HOST ANYTHING FOR HIM INVOLVING YUGOSLAVS. I HAVE ASKED SWEITZER TO HOST THE LUNCH.

8. STRBAC FAREWELL CALL: I WILL BE INTERESTED IN HEARING WHAT STRBAC HAD TO SAY AFTER HIS MEETING WIODIHCWK ANDREWS.

9. COMMENT: YOU ARE ALSO UNDOUBTEDLY AWARE OF THE REPORT OF A THREAT AGAINST ME THAT WAS PICKED UP IN ZAGREB (ZAGREB'S 747 AND SUBSEQUENT). YOU MIGHT ALSO BE INTERESTED TO KNOW THAT YESTERDAY OUR BUTLER RESIGNED SUMMARILY AND ABRUPTLY. I THINK HE WAS UNDER TOO MUCH PRESSURE TO REPORT TO SUP AND WANTED TO GET OUT OF THE LINE OF FIRE. YESTERDAY AFTERNOON

THE RESIDENCE GUEST HOUSE WAS BROKEN INTO , AND A RADIO
TAKEN AND SOME OF THE FURNISHINGS DISTURBED. WE
HAVE BEEN IN TO FSFA (STARCEVIC) ON THIS
(BELGRADE 5951). OTHERWISE, ART, ALL IS
PERFECTLY NORMAL.
SILBERMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BELGRA05952
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760342-0805
From: BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760975/aaaacimw.tel
Line Count: 175
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 STATE 220477
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <14 SEP 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEALINGS WITH THE YUGOSLAVS
TAGS: PFOR, YO, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006